

Legislation Committee II meeting
Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta, GA
10:30am-11:30am EST January 22, 2017

Introductions

Reminder: Legislation Committee has changed from the liaison model; now it is a standalone committee with exception of ex officio member Bill Sudduth who is our Council rep.
Hallie reviewed the Charge

Discussion of GINI Next 5 Year Plan and Role of Legislation committee

- John Shuler had put together the five year plan document, GINI Next. This is an aspirational document
- The goals in this document are more outward-facing, and the committee has already discussed the need to focus these goals inward. Our charge states that there should be a balance between what GoDORT needs vs. ALA community needs vs. entire library community needs
- When looking at these goals, are they relevant? How do we want to modify them?
 - We need to keep in mind the uncertainty and state of politics this year. Our services may be called-upon more often
- Stephen Woods described two examples of recent resolutions that illustrate how confusing the writing/passing of resolutions can be. On one hand, there are established steps that need to be made, and certain channels need to be used. But these aren't clear, and they haven't been used so well in the recent past, so Legislation Committee has alienated itself.
- This committee needs to be more robust, we need more membership.
- Onboarding for new committee chairs, and for new committee members, would be incredibly beneficial. We should also establish that the committee chair must be in their 2nd year on the committee.
- GoDORT steering and the Legislation Committee should attend each other's meetings as much as possible, so everyone is aware of what is going on.
- Hallie asked GPO, what are some examples of advocacy work that we can help with?
 - Response from Laurie Hall and David Walls
 - Help us get the word out! Be a conduit for the work that GPO is doing.
 - GPO also wants to know what's going on in Legislative Committee as well, so there is no confusion about resolutions or other advocacy proposals
 - GPO views the past few years as very transformational, and would like help getting the word out
- We also need to define advocacy: some see it as just a bunch of noise, we actually want our advocacy to lead to outcomes.
 - Is advocacy just "getting the word out" or a more measurable outcome?
 - Resolutions should be the end result, not the beginning of a discussion
 - There are a lot of assumptions from Congress about the online/digital nature of government information. It needs to be known that this is not the case.

- Legislation Committee needs to encourage more awareness of resolutions through thoughtful programming.
 - It is suggested that if a group wants to propose a resolution for ALA, they need to host a program first. In this way, everyone will have a say and the advocacy will take a more complete form.

Moving Forward

- Legislation committee will consider:
 - Expanding membership
 - Focusing more on processes for drafting and working on resolutions
 - Educate and discuss what advocacy really is
 - Ensuring that resolutions are an *outcome* and not a first step in the discussion. Require all major resolutions to host a program at a future conference before sending the resolutions to steering.
 - Maintain better communication with GODORT
 - Maintain two-way communication with GPO and look for opportunities to advocate for them
- There will be many conference calls from now until June
- Ideal outcome? We are able to clearly define how the Legislation committee and resolution drafting works